Espionage in Armed Forces

†2462. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether incidents of espionage in the armed forces have come to the notice of Government;

(b) if so, the number of such cases registered during the last three years, till date;

(c) the countries/foreign organizations with which these espionage activities were linked;

(d) the number of persons arrested and punished during the same period; and

(e) the steps taken to strengthen the intelligence machinery, to abolish espionage activities effectively?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (b) A few cases of involvement of Armed Forces personnel espionage activites have come to the notice of the Government. The number of such cases reported during last three years in the Armed Forces are as under:

Year	2004	2005	2006	2007 (till date)
No. of cases	—	2	5	-

(c) Pakistan's ISI is suspected to be involved in such espionage activites.

(d) 16 Armed Forces personnel have been arrested for involvement in these cases. Of these 14 have been awarded stringent punishment.

(e) Comprehensive preventive measures based on *modus operandi* of hostile countries/organisations are being enforced and regular security review is carried out from time to time with a view to sensitize the environment for making security apparatus foolproof. In addition the existing Counter Intelligence setup in the Armed Forces is synergized on a regular basis to meet the new challenges. Stringent action is being undertaken against the accused persons and exemplary punishment is being awarded.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.